



**Department of Justice
U.S. Attorney's Office
Southern District of Texas**

Donald J. DeGabrielle, Jr. • United States Attorney

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JOHN YEMBRICK

PUBLIC INFORMATION OFFICE

(713) 567-9388

FOUR AREA MEN CHARGED IN ROBBERY OF GALVESTON CREDIT UNION

GALVESTON, TX – Four Galveston area men have been arrested and charged for their alleged involvement in the armed robbery of the University Federal Credit Union in August 2005. Bank robbery carries a statutory maximum penalty of 25 years of imprisonment and a \$250,000 fine upon conviction. A conviction for using, brandishing or possessing a firearm during the commission of a bank robbery adds an additional prison term of seven years to be served consecutively to any sentence imposed for a bank robbery conviction.

John Wilbur Franklin, 34, of La Marque, TX, Arthur Lee Winn, Jr., 27, of Galveston, TX, Broderick Wade York, 29, of Hitchcock, TX, and Keelon Jmar Senegal, 29, of La Marque, TX, are each charged in separately filed criminal complaints with the August 11, 2005, armed robbery of the University Federal Credit Union located at 428 Avenue E, in Galveston, TX. According to the criminal complaint, during the late morning of August 11, 2005, two men dressed all in black with skull caps, bandanas covering their faces, and armed with semi-automatic pistols entered the credit union. Two other men remained outside the bank as lookouts. As the men left the bank with approximately \$9,878 in cash and entered their getaway car -- a stolen 1990 silver Chevrolet Suburban -- a dye pack in the cash exploded. Shortly thereafter, the four men abandoned the cash and the Suburban and fled on foot. A total of \$9,790 was recovered from the stolen suburban along with a black "do rag".

Further investigation revealed that the men continued their flight in a gold Buick four door sedan. The Buick sedan was discovered abandoned on the corner of 13th and Avenue M by officers of the Galveston Police Department (GPD). From the sedan and the area surrounding the car, GPD officers recovered numerous items of black clothing.

Franklin appeared before United States Magistrate Judge John R. Froeschner on March 22, 2006, and has been ordered detained without bond. Winn, York and Senegal, who had been in state custody on other charges, have been transferred to federal custody. All three men are scheduled to appear before United States Magistrate Froeschner this afternoon for a hearing on the government's motion to detain all three men without bond pending further criminal proceedings.

The prosecution of Franklin, Winn, York, and Senegal is part of an ongoing gun violence reduction initiative of the Department of Justice called Project Safe Neighborhoods (PSN). PSN partners federal law enforcement with state and local law enforcement agencies nationwide in a

unified offensive to prosecute individuals who possess firearms or ammunition in violation of federal law. In Texas, Project Safe Neighborhood extends the partnerships created through Texas Exile, a similar statewide initiative operating to reduce gun violence.

**A criminal complaint is an accusation of criminal conduct, not evidence.
Defendants are presumed innocent unless and until convicted through due process of law.**

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